England shall give him office, honour, might:
For the fifth Harry from curb'd licence plucks
The muzzle of restraint, and the wild dog
Shall flesh his tooth in every innocent.
O my poor kingdom, sick with civil blows!
When that my care could not withhold thy riots,
What wilt thou do, when riot is thy care[7]?
O, thou wilt be a wilderness again,
Peopled with wolves, thy old inhabitants!

P. HEN. O, pardon me, my liege! but for my tears,
[Kneeling.
The moist impediments unto my speech,
I had forestalled this dear and deep rebuke,
Ere you with grief had spoke, and I had heard
The course of it so far. There is your crown;
And He that wears the crown immortally,
Long guard it yours! If I affect it more,
Than as your honour, and as your renown,
Let me no more from this obedience rise,

How much this play on words, faulty as it is, was admired in the age of Shakspeare, appears from the most ancient writers of that time having frequently indulged themselves in it. So, in Marlowe's Hero and Leander, 1617:

"And as amidst the enamour'd waves he swims,
"The god of gold a purpose *guilt* his limbs;
"That, this word *guilt* including double sense,
"The double *guilt* of his incontinence
"Might be expressed."

Again, in Acolastus his Afterwit, a poem, by S. Nicholson, 1600:

"O sacred thirst of golde, what canst thou not?—
"Some terms thee *gylt*, that every soule might reade!
"Even in thy name, thy *guilt* is great indeede."

See also vol. xL p. 109. n. 6. MALONE.

7 — when riot is thy CARE?] i. e. *Curator*. A bold figure. So Eumseus is styled by Ovid, Epist. L:

——immundae *curam* fidelis bare.

TYRWHITT.

One cannot help wishing Mr. Tyrwhitt's elegant explanation to be true: yet I doubt whether the poet meant to say more than——

What wilt thou do, when riot is *thy regular business and occupation?* MALONE.